



Missouri's Statewide Transportation Priorities Process (Consideration for 2007-2011 STIP)

The Missouri Department of Transportation is in its second year of incorporating the Planning Framework into the transportation decision-making process. The Planning Framework is the process MoDOT uses to collaborate with its regional planning partners and local officials in transportation planning and decision-making. The process includes specific process for prioritizing transportation needs and scoping projects.

Funding projections indicate there will be no additional construction funds for statewide major projects in 2007-2011. As a result, the statewide transportation priorities process will consist of only identifying potential future scoping projects. These may be in the evaluation stage, which is called project scoping and is when transportation solutions are developed and evaluated to address various transportation needs or issues. Some scoping projects require location studies and environmental work. Projects identified in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, or STIP for scoping are not commitments to construct or implement an improvement.

A task force comprised of MoDOT's ten district engineers, director of program delivery, director of system management and transportation planning director is charged with implementing the statewide transportation priorities process. These task force members work with planning partners throughout the process to ensure each geographic region of the state has a voice at the table.

The statewide transportation priorities process is a multi-step process. The goals of the effort include a statewide understanding of Missouri's transportation needs, meaningful involvement of planning partners and the foundation for the possible scoping projects that may be added to the STIP. The following criteria are required when identifying scoping and design projects.

- The scoping project must be part of Missouri's major route network or be a major bridge as outlined by MoDOT Bridge Maintenance.
- The scoping project must be system expansion – no rehabilitation /reconstruction projects are acceptable (adding driving lanes upgrading to super-two or interchange operation improvements involving a major route).
- All scoping projects for consideration must have a minimum project cost estimate of \$3 million (rough construction cost estimate).

The guidelines for the Missouri Statewide Transportation Priorities process are as follows:

- 1) The projects submitted as part of the Amendment 3 prioritization process not selected for the 2006-2010 STIP have been reviewed and only those on the major network qualify for this year's evaluation. The scoping projects will be considered along with new project scoping submittals.
- 2) Without any statewide major project construction funds available in the STIP for this year's process, the statewide transportation priorities process should provide priorities for which corridors or major bridges should be studied and scoped.
- 3) Planning partners should continue to review the selection of both urban and rural scoping projects in order to understand the needs throughout the state.
- 4) The same voting rules should be used again for this year's process. The rules are the following:
 - Only the task force representative (District Engineer) is allowed to vote but may have any planning partner representatives involved in the discussion at their table to make the district decision of scoping project priorities.
Each task force member is allowed to vote for 18 highs, 17 mediums and 17 low priority scoping projects. This accounts for all 52 submittals from the districts.
- 5) Since there are limited dollars this year, districts will be asked to provide only 5 submittals each. This is for facilitation purposes.
- 6) The Major Projects Task Force will be responsible for review and selection of major bridges.

Overall steps in Statewide Transportation Priorities for 2007-2011:

STEP 1 – Statewide Transportation Priorities Meeting #1 – MARCH 28

Educational/informational meeting regarding the prioritization process of the two upcoming meetings. This meeting will also discuss funding, needs and scoping projects, major bridges and Missouri's advance planning's relationship with major projects process.

STEP 2 –Scoping Projects Submitted for Consideration – APRIL 10

Districts work with planning partners across the state to determine the highest-priority major transportation scoping projects or needs to submit for consideration in the prioritization process.

STEP 3 – Technical Prioritization Process – APRIL 14

Without any statewide major project construction funds available for adding projects to the next STIP, this year's prioritization process is to provide the priorities of which corridors should be studied and scoped. Last year's submittals will be given no additional emphasis over this year's submittals.

Central Office Transportation Planning staff will include the 2006-2010 submittals not selected for programming in the previous STIP in the prioritization process along with any new submittals to develop the scoping project data sheets. These sheets will provide information that



assists in making decisions regarding Missouri's highest-priority scoping projects. The technical point values are a starting point in the quantifiable part of the scoping project rating and not final scoping project scores. There are other pieces of information considered in the scoping project rating that are not quantifiable.

STEP 4 – Statewide Transportation Priorities Meeting #2 – APRIL 20

Districts should e-mail their presentations of their top needs to Eva Voss or Eric Bernskoetter in preparation of the April 27, 2006, meeting.

STEP 5 – Statewide Transportation Priorities Meeting #2 – APRIL 27

Technical and qualitative information about each scoping and design project is discussed as part of the first statewide transportation priorities meeting. Each district presents information about the scoping and design projects being considered, and task force members and planning partners determine ratings of high, medium and low for all scoping and design projects being considered. With no funding to add new statewide major projects construction to the next STIP, the focus of the prioritization meeting is identifying potential future projects. These potential scoping projects will consist of corridors requiring study and scoping.

STEP 6 – Sub team meets -- APRIL 28

A sub team will meet to review and compile results from the April 27, 2006, meeting.

STEP 7 – Allocation Homework – MAY 1 (preparation for May meeting)

Sub team will send to districts and planning partners the results of the April 27, 2006, meeting.

Districts and planning partners work together using the high, medium and low scoping project ratings and information from the scoping project data sheets to develop a recommendation for which scoping and design projects they would recommend for study.

STEP 8 – Allocation Homework – MAY 15 (preparation for May meeting)

Districts send results of discussions with planning partners regarding scoping dollars to be spent.

STEP 9 – Statewide Transportation Priorities Meeting #3 – MAY 19

The task force meets again to review the results of the homework and finalize a collective recommendation for which scoping and design projects should move forward. This recommendation will establish the relative priority of the needs being considered for study.

STEP 10 – Programming – MAY/JUNE

Following the third meeting, MoDOT staff works with the Major Project Prioritization Task Force's recommendation to match the highest-priority scoping projects with available resources. The result of this work is presented to the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission in July as part of the final Statewide Transportation Improvement Program.